HOW
to Read your
Electric Meter

Learn how to measure
the amount of
electricity you use

NC Public Power
City Owned Electric Service

How to Read Your Electric Meter

Your electric meter is a precision instrument that accurately measures the electricity you use. By following these instructions, you can keep a close check on your electrical usage.

1) Read your meter numbers from right to left.

2) Note each number before moving on to the next dial on the left.

3) Always read the numbers in the direction of 0, 1, 2, etc. (clockwise, counter clockwise, clockwise, etc.).

4) Record the number the pointer has just passed. Practice with this example:

| 1 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 7 |

The answer is 18557.

5) Even though a pointer appears to be exactly on a number, read the next lower number, unless the pointer to its right has just passed zero (0) and is moving toward one (1). Practice with this example:

| 1 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 6 |

The answer is 19666.

6) Using the above examples to determine your kwh usage during a period, simply subtract your first reading (18557) from the second (19666), which gives you a total usage of 1109 kwh.

Remember, you would have to read your meter at the same time as our meter reader for it to be the same as the reading on your bill. If you have questions, call your municipally owned utility.